



I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on April 20, 1998

By [Signature]

#17  
KLG

PATENT

Attorney Docket No. 16238-000700

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent of: )  
 )  
PHILIP E. EGGERS et al. )  
 )  
Patent No.: 5,697,882 )  
 )  
Issue Date: December 16, 1997 )  
 )  
For: SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR )  
ELECTROSURGICAL CUTTING AND )  
ABLATION )

COMMUNICATION

**CERTIFICATE**

**APR 23 1998**

**OF CORRECTION**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Enclosed is a Certificate of Correction for the above identified patent which contains an error. In the Request for Certificate of Correction filed December 17, 1997, Applicant requested correction of claim 23 (old claim number) instead of claim 1 (renumbered claim number). The Certificate of Correction should show claim 1, not claim 23. The desired correction is set forth on form PTO 1050, enclosed herewith.

If a telephone conference would expedite correction, please telephone the undersigned at (408) 736-0224.

**APPROVED**

**JUL 28 1998**

[Signature]  
FOR THE COMMISSIONER OF PAT. & T.M.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]  
John T. Raffles  
Reg. No. 38,585

ArthroCare Corporation  
595 N. Pastoria Avenue  
Sunnyvale, California 94086  
(408) 736-0224

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
**CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

PATENT : 5,697,882

DATED : December 16, 1997

INVENTOR(S) : Philip E. Eggers et al.

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 24, lines 6-18, claim 1, should read as follows:

1. A method for applying energy to a target site on a patient body structure comprising:

providing an electrode terminal and a return electrode electrically coupled to a high frequency voltage source;

positioning the electrode terminal in close proximity to the target site in the presence of an electrically conducting fluid; and

applying a high frequency voltage between the electrode terminal and the return electrode, the high frequency voltage being sufficient to vaporize the fluid in a thin layer over at least a portion of the electrode terminal and to induce the discharge of energy to the target site in contact with the vapor layer.

This certificate supersedes Certificate of Correction issued April 7, 1998.

Signed and Sealed this

Twenty-fifth Day of August, 1998

Attest:



BRUCE LEHMAN

Attesting Officer

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**  
**CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

PATENT NO. : 5,697,882

DATED : December 16, 1997

INVENTOR(S) : Philip E. Eggers et al.

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. A method for applying energy to a target site on a patient body structure comprising:
  - providing an electrode terminal and a return electrode electrically coupled to a high frequency voltage source;
  - positioning the [active] electrode terminal in close proximity to the target site in the presence of an electrically conducting [terminal] fluid; and
  - applying a high frequency voltage between the electrode terminal and the return electrode, the high frequency voltage being sufficient to vaporize the fluid in a thin layer over at least a portion of the electrode terminal and to induce the discharge of energy to the target site in contact with the vapor layer.

Mailing address of sender:

**John T. Raffle**  
**ARTHROCARE CORPORATION**  
**595 N. Pastoria Avenue**  
**Sunnyvale, California 94086**

Patent No. 5,697,882

No. of add'l. copies

@ 50¢ per page

→ 0

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
**CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

PATENT NO. : 5,697,882  
DATED : December 16, 1997  
INVENTOR(S) : Philip E. Eggers, et. al.

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

23. A method for applying energy to a target site on a patient body structure comprising:  
providing an electrode terminal and a return electrode electrically coupled to a high frequency voltage source;  
positioning the [active] electrode terminal in close proximity to the target site in the presence of an electrically conducting [terminal] fluid; and  
applying a high frequency voltage between the electrode terminal and the return electrode, the high frequency voltage being sufficient to vaporize the fluid in a thin layer over at least a portion of the electrode terminal and to induce the discharge of energy to the target site in contact with the vapor layer.

Signed and Sealed this  
Seventh Day of April, 1998



Attest:

BRUCE LEHMAN

Attesting Officer

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks